

[E. G. Maranville]

Form A

Circumstances of Interview No. 1

Vermont

C. F. Derven

Poultney

August 23, 1938

Folklore

1. Interview on August 23, 1938 at 10 p. m.
2. At the home of the informant
3. Mr. E. G. Maranville, Poultney, Vermont
4. Mr. George Maranville, son of informant, Poultney, Vt.
5. Unaccompanied
6. The Maranville home is located on the outskirts of the village and on the road leading to Hampton, N. Y. It is about two-hundred yards from the junction of York and College streets. The aide of the road, namely the west, on which it is located has few houses, although a number scatter the east side. Being partly isolated, and having a background of meadows, hills, and sky, the house is easy to locate. It is set back a little from the road, and appears to be shaded by trees more than it actually is. A few large trees cast shadows

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from their positions along the roadside. The home itself is small, painted white, and has a small porch. It is what one might call a rambling building of two stories height, even though it gives the impression of being tiny, due to its isolation. There is a fairly large red barn behind the house. The informant says that the house has been there for many years. We sat on canvas chairs of the type used in summer places, awning-striped and comfortable. These were situated on the front porch. The informant indicated the history of houses across the street, and those nearby. Part of the time was spent in the parlor of the house, where we relaxed in large rocking chairs. A round oak stove, a side table, a high desk, and many pictures decorated the small room.

OLD POULTNEY TALES

Form B

Personal History of Informant

Vermont

C.F.Derven

Poultney

August 23, 1938

Subject ———- Mr. E. G. Maranville, Poultney, Vt.

1. French ancestry— (name was 'De Maranville"
2. Born in Ticonderoga, June 1848
3. He has four children living. Wife deceased.

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4. Ticonderaga, Poultney, Castleton (short period), and with Union Army during Civil War. Most of his life spent in Poultney.

5. Elementary shool education

6. Carpenter, manager of a mill (grist and weed mill in Hampton, N. Y. Drummer boy in Civil War.

7. Interested in many things, but for the most part likes to talk about the old days, which is to be naturally expected of a man who has lived (90) ninety years.

8. Member of Grand Army of the Republic. Oldest, and only Civil War Veteran living around Poultney.

9. The informant is a man of medium height. He carries himself erect, and does not reveal his age. His hair is white, and he has a small white mustache. He is somewhat bald. The skin of his face is not lined as rigidly as in some men his age, and his complexion is excellent. A merry glint comes into his eyes when he tells stories. He prefers humorous stories and tells them very well. He remembers hearing Abraham Lincoln give an address to his section of the army, and considers it as something of great importances which of course is true. The comments he has to make about the present generation are dry, and original. Talking to him is a fine experience. His natural courtesy and friendliness makes him a grand person to know.

Form C— Text of Interview No. L

Vermont

C. F. Derven

Poultney

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August 23, 1938

Subject— Folklore— Mr. Maranville

Up at the old Castleton Medical School, there was a young student, the son of one of the professors, who liked himself pretty well. He thought he was much smarter than he really was.

At that time, they used to keep the cadavers in large barrels which were partly filled with brine. There was one of those barrels, without anything but brine in it near a building. The young student used to go over to the barrel, and leaning over it, would say, "Doctor Treadway of Castleton, Vermont!" and listening to the echo, would add, "That sounds mighty good from a barrel." He made a habit of doing it, and annoyed many people with his foolishness.

One of the men around there who had got sick of hearing him decided to fix him. So the man waited until the young fellow was well over the barrel, and having found a good big stick, he swatted him in the seat of his pants. The student went head first into the big barrel. When the dripping student had finally got out of the barrel, the man asked, "Dr. Treadway of Castleton, Vermont! How does that sound in a barrel?"

In the old days of Castleton Normal School the boys used to sneak into the girl's dormitory at night to see their sweethearts. The class poet wrote a verse about one of them who was pretty good at sneaking in. I've wandered far And I've wandered near And some of my wanderings Have brought me here With a few little apples And a little old mug And a quart of molasses In a little brown jug So walk jabone Oh, Jennie, come along In comes Charley With his white-toes on."

(1) (2)

(1) Used for purposes of rhyme.

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(2) In his stocking-feet.

It is sung to the tune of 'White Cockade, which the informant says is an old drum and fife number.